

after the Democratic National Convention, and shortly before the presidential election, which were more likely factors in the tribe's contribution decision. Anderson recalled that the tribe increased its contributions activity in presidential election cycles.

Finally, Anderson said that the tribe's November 1996 \$10,000 contribution to the DSCC was the Mille Lacs's response to a call from Sen. Kerrey. DSCC documentation indicates that the solicitation related to its fall 1996 dinner.

As to all of its contributions during this cycle, Mille Lacs leaders said that the tribe was not solicited or pressured to make payments in connection with the Hudson application, either before or after its denial. No witness from any of the tribes surveyed said that any particular contribution resulted from pressure to give money in anticipation of or in return for denial of the Hudson application, much less a promise to pursue that goal. Though the timing and often unprecedented levels of giving suggest that the tribes may have been inspired to give by the Hudson outcome, the evidence does not support a more sweeping, or incriminating, conclusion.

K. Secretary Babbitt's Various Statements and Testimony

1. The Wall Street Journal July 12, 1996, Article

On July 12, 1996, the Wall Street Journal published a news article entitled, *Midwest Indian Tribes Flex Washington Muscle In Successful Drive to Sink Rival Gaming Project*. The article described, among other things, O'Connor & Hannan's efforts in lobbying the White House to weigh in at Interior against the Hudson casino application.⁵⁹⁹ The article also described

⁵⁹⁹The article, for instance, quotes from the May 8, 1995, letter from Patrick O'Connor to Harold Ickes, in which O'Connor stressed his clients' history of financial support for the Democratic Party. The article also recounts that O'Connor and his tribal clients had met with DNC Chairman Fowler to seek his assistance, and that Fowler had subsequently contacted Ickes (continued...)